

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Health
Markup of H.R. 4631, H.R. 4299, H.R. 4709
May 28, 2014

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Our committee has had great bipartisan success on the public health front with more than a dozen committee bills already having become law this Congress. And today, we look to build upon that success as we consider three important bipartisan bills.

First, subcommittee Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Pallone have introduced H.R. 4299, the Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act. Under current law, for a new drug with potential for abuse, there is no deadline for the DEA to make a scheduling decision after receiving a recommendation from the FDA. Recently, the delays in DEA's decisions have increased significantly. H.R. 4299 would provide more predictability and clarity around the DEA's review of scheduling decisions for these new drug products.

Second, we will consider H.R. 4709, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act. Authored by Rep. Marino, Vice Chairman Blackburn, and Reps. Welch and Chu, this bill would aid in the fight against prescription drug abuse by establishing a collaborative and coordinated approach among government agencies and stakeholders. Such a cooperative approach would also ensure that patients still have access to necessary medications.

Finally, we will vote on H.R. 4631, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act. Introduced by Reps. Chris Smith and Mike Doyle, this important bill will continue autism-related research, early identification and intervention, education, and the activities of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee. In the face of growing prevalence, it is critical that we continue to support those with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families by supporting Autism research and passing H.R. 4631. The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute offered to the bill reflects our continued work and cooperation with the Senate on this priority.

I commend Chairman Pitts for his leadership as our work to improve the public health continues.

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